

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest.

This month, Sinclair has mandated that WSTR (WB 64 in Cincinnati) and WRGT (Fox 45 in Dayton), both of which are my local stations, televise a very biased and partisan television show called "Stolen Honor." This required broadcast does NOT provide for balanced treatment by broadcasting another, similar program with a different point of view. I was under the impression that the public airwaves were under FCC regulations that required fair and equal treatment for political candidates.

The fact that Sinclair is requiring its affiliates to show a one-sided documentary which amounts to a political advertisement WITHOUT providing for the broadcast of another partisan political advertisement of equal length is a clear violation of the spirit of FCC regulation, and a blatant undermining of the principles of our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show us why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show us why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I urge the FCC to censure Sinclair, or at least require them to remedy their partisan and undemocratic actions.